

the world. This legislation and the resulting nuclear supply agreements with India should improve an important strategic relationship and reduce the likelihood nuclear weapons will fall into the hands of those who wish to do us harm, including rogue states and terrorists.

A POSTHUMOUS TRIBUTE TO PASTOR BISHOP CLARENCE HARMON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the late Pastor Bishop Clarence Harmon, a man who was a giant among men in the Brooklyn, New York community. Although he has passed on, it behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing his impressive accomplishments, as the community prepares to honor the memory of this great man of God at a memorial service on July 30, 2006.

Clarence Harmon was born July 26, 1926 in Columbia, South Carolina. After completing high school, he came to New York City. After several years in New York, he met and married Catherine P. Penn. To that union, three children, one daughter and two sons were born. It was after their marriage that he accepted Christ as his personal Savior and joined Betterview Baptist Church. Upon departure from Betterview, he became affiliated with the Institutional Church of God in Christ under the leadership of Reverend Carl E. Williams. There, God began to mold and shape him for greater service. On Easter Sunday, 1951, he preached his first sermon. He graduated from Shelton College in 1956. In April 1956, he started a mission at 645 Halsey Street, Brooklyn. Shortly thereafter, by the direction of the Holy Spirit, Elder Harmon was led to 623 Madison Street. The building was totally void. However, the spirit of God confirmed to him whispering the words "This Is It" and the Lord blessed his hands to build a structure such as the one that is known as Unity Temple.

During the latter part of 1956, Unity Temple became affiliated with the Church of God in Christ, Inc. Eastern New York Jurisdiction. For the next 30 years, Pastor Harmon held various leadership positions within the COGIC, such as: President and Administrative Assistant of the Pioneers, Chairman of the Board of Elders; President of the State Benevolent Committee; and Superintendent of District No. 3 under the leadership of the late Bishop F. D. Washington. As an Assistant Bishop to over 100 churches throughout the dioceses of the Churches of God in Christ, Bishop Harmon instituted a benevolence committee to take care of the pioneers and widows of the Eastern N.Y. Jurisdiction.

In 1988, he was appointed to the position of First Assistant of the First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, Eastern New York; the late Bishop Ithiel Clemmons, Jurisdictional Prelate. In October 1995, he was elevated to the office of Bishop in the Churches of God in Christ. He served as Presiding Bishop of the O. M. Kelly/F. D. Washington Brotherhood.

Bishop Harmon was a pioneer in the Brooklyn community, hosting one of the largest food pantries in Bedford-Stuyvesant feeding over

4,000 people a month. Bishop Harmon was a generous person donating his time and talent to those in need. He had an open door policy at the church, often allowing weddings and funerals to be held without cost. Bishop Harmon's favorite saying was "Everybody is somebody" and he lived and proved that every day. Through his ministry, 15 churches to date have been birthed. Though small in stature, Bishop Harmon stood tall among men. He acquired the name "Muscles" from his friends in the ministry because of his strength and tenacity in defending the underprivileged. Some of those friends included the late Bishop F.D. Washington, Bishop O.M. Kelly and Bishop I. Clemmons, to name a few.

He was and still is an inspiration to those who knew him. Bishop Harmon's church community continues his legacy through the implementation of the Clarence Harmon Scholarship Fund that will award two scholarships in his name to high school seniors seeking a college degree. This tribute will further serve as a reminder to our youth that no height is too great for them to achieve.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Pastor Bishop Clarence Harmon, a man who offered his talents and services for the betterment of our local and global communities.

Mr. Speaker, Bishop Harmon's selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes him most worthy of our recognition today.

TRIBUTE TO SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important contributions and deep sacrifices that our men and women in the military make. I would like to share the experience of one of my constituents, Major Jeff Farmer, who recently returned from Iraq and sent me this message:

I'll leave you with a little story. After going on R&R three months earlier (to date I'd been away from my home for more than twelve months), I flew into Atlanta National Airport from Kuwait for a layover waiting for the next flight to Charlottesville, VA. I had on my same uniform that I had been wearing for 36 straight hours. I was trying to get home to my family. I was hungry so I went into an Appleby's in the airport terminal. I did not feel very patriotic so I found a corner booth and dropped my pack next to the floor by my table. I was tired so I put my head down as if to meditate and trying not to attract any attention. I was not quite sure if I wanted to eat or sleep however both were weighing heavily on my mind. The waiter came to my table and reminded me that I could not drink alcohol in the airport in uniform because of General Order #1. I told the waiter that was OK. I was not drinking anyway. My eyes were a little hazy and I was appreciating the look of free people walking around and enjoying each other's conversation. It was refreshing and distracted my attention while I was trying to look at the menu and order. It was nice to hear a baby cry, people laugh, and just enjoy what they were doing without consequences or reper-

cussions. The environment was very warm which made me feel a little envious of my experience and if they really knew how good life really is. My meal finally came and I ate slowly trying to taste, smell, and enjoy every bite. French fries never tasted so good.

After an enjoyable meal I slowly got up and walked over to the counter to ask for my waiter so I could pay and leave. The cashier said, "Don't worry. The meal is covered." I thanked him and he said don't thank me. Four different people offered to pay your meal and when I told the other three the meal was paid in full they said, "Keep the money for the next soldier coming in." As I turned from the counter with my pack on my back people began to stand, thank me, pat my back, and applaud. Tears filled my eyes. I was humbled. Just the thought and gesture made me feel proud of what I was doing and my service to my country. At that moment I knew I was home.

We owe Major Jeff Farmer and his fellow servicemen and women a debt of gratitude for helping preserve freedom and democracy.

HONORING GIRLS INC.

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Girls Inc., an outstanding organization that serves young women and girls throughout my district and across our country. Girls Inc. is a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to inspire all girls to be "strong, smart, and bold." With local roots dating to 1864 and national status since 1945, Girls Inc. has responded to the changing needs of girls and their communities through research-based programs and public education that empower girls to reach their full potential and to understand, value, and assert their rights.

Girls Inc. reaches nearly 800,000 girls through its direct service, website, products, and publications. In 1,700 program sites in the United States and Canada, Girls Inc. directly serves girls ages 6–18 with research-based programs focusing on science, math, and technology; physical and mental health and sexuality; violence prevention and safety; substance abuse prevention; financial literacy; sports and athletic skills; leadership and advocacy; and media literacy. Of the girls served by Girls Inc., 76 percent are girls from communities of color and 70 percent come from families earning \$25,000 or less. More than half are from single-parent households, most of which are headed by women.

The Girls Inc. movement started in New England during the Industrial Revolution as a response to the needs of a new working class: young women who had migrated from rural communities in search of newly available job opportunities in textile mills and factories. The movement grew during the Great Depression, and in 1945, 19 charter clubs formed the Girls Club of America, a name that would, in 1990, change to Girls Inc.

Over the years Girls Inc. programming has changed to accommodate the evolving needs of young women in our society. While programming in the 1950s focused on preparing young women for future roles as wives and homemakers, amidst the social turbulence that marked American life in the 1960s, Girls Inc.

rethought its mission and educational message. In response to hundreds of letters from young women seeking programming that could better address the changing roles of young women and girls in our society, Girls Inc. initiated a major fundraising campaign, tripled its budget, and more than doubled the number of centers nationwide. With a strong financial foothold, and in the wake of the civil rights movement, the women's movement, and a flood of women entering the workforce, Girls Inc. shifted the organization from its role as shaper of homemakers and good citizens to a new role as an advocate for the rights and needs of girls of all backgrounds and abilities.

Girls Inc. today is a multifaceted organization, devoted to the dual goals of empowering girls and creating a more equitable society. The work of Girls Inc. is especially significant in California's 9th Congressional District, with Girls Inc. of Alameda County annually serving over 7,000 young women and their families, many of whom are my constituents. Under the excellent longtime leadership of Executive Director Pat Loomes, Girls Inc. of Alameda County has reached untold numbers of girls in the East Bay through its successful implementation of numerous programs such as the GIRLSmart intensive after school literacy program, and the Eureka Program, which seeks to give young women the opportunity to explore different career options, take on leadership roles and take positive risks.

This four-year program is especially significant to my District Office, where Girls Inc. Eureka Program participants have sought and been placed in internships there every summer for the past several years. It has been an honor to get to know these young women and to assist them in developing the tools and the knowledge they will need as our future leaders, and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to continue this work in partnership with Girls Inc. every year.

Today, on behalf of California's 9th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the directors, staff, supporters, and most of all, the girls of Girls Inc. for their work to reach out to, educate and empower young women and girls everywhere. Their extraordinary work has touched the lives of countless young people, and I thank Girls Inc. for its ongoing commitment to helping all girls to become strong, smart and bold.

#### HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROMOTION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4157) to amend the Social Security Act to encourage the dissemination, security, confidentiality, and usefulness of health information technology:

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4157, the Health Information Technology Promotion Act. While I strongly support improving and advancing health information technology, I am disappointed that the Majority chose to bring this inadequate bill to the House Floor instead of offering the Enzi-

Kennedy-Frist-Clinton bipartisan Senate-passed bill.

H.R. 4157 does not provide for the development or adoption of interoperability standard. It does not provide funding to help providers transition to an electronic medical records system. And it does not provide privacy protections which will ensure that patients can control access to their own sensitive electronic health information. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office has stated that "enacting H.R. 4157 would not significantly affect either the rate at which the use of health technology will grow or how well that technology will be designed and implemented."

Mr. Chairman, all of this makes you wonder why the Majority insisted on bringing this bill to the floor and refused to consider the Dingell-Rangel substitute. The Dingell-Rangel substitute was the bipartisan Senate-passed bill with additional key privacy protections. It authorized necessary funding to help providers adopt health IT and it removed provisions that expanded waste, fraud and abuse.

Mr. Chairman, we must bring our healthcare system into the 21st century. To do so, we must have a comprehensive, interoperable technology-based system that will also protect patient privacy. With this, we will improve efficiency, ensure patient care, and reduce medical error. Unfortunately, this bill has too many flaws and does little to improve upon our outmoded pen and pad system. I am disappointed that the Majority did not allow us to vote on a bill that will make a difference. Americans deserve better.

#### IN SUPPORT OF PROVIDING COTTON TARIFF RELIEF FOR HIGH-QUALITY SHIRT MAKERS

**HON. ROB SIMMONS**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2006*

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, last year I introduced duty suspension legislation for high-quality woven cotton shirting fabrics that are not currently produced in the United States. Today, after receiving valuable input from the International Trade Commission, ITC, and the National Council of Textile Organizations, NCTO, I am happy to reintroduce a slightly revised version of this legislation.

The high-quality cotton fabrics affected by this legislation are used in the domestic production of fine men's and boys' dress shirts. Unfortunately, several American companies that produce these shirts are being unfairly penalized by tariffs on the cotton they must import for this purpose. But because this type of cotton is not produced domestically, these tariffs protect no American interest.

What's more, Canada has eliminated its tariffs on this type of imported woven shirting fabrics, and under a provision of the North American Free Trade Agreement, NAFTA, Canadian shirt makers can export large quantities of these shirts to the U.S. duty-free. This further puts U.S.-based shirt manufacturers at a competitive disadvantage.

Last year, following a request for public comments by the House Ways and Means Committee on all tariff relief trade bills, the NCTO raised a concern about the scope of fabrics that could conceivably be covered by

my original bill, H.R. 1945. In addition, the Ways and Means Committee requested technical comments on all tariff relief bills from the ITC.

Because this legislation was never intended to cover other cotton fabrics—and to alleviate any perceived concerns about the scope of the bill—I have adjusted the language in the bill to specifically list the affected fabrics by number. This will make it perfectly clear that the bill only covers men's and boys' cotton shirting fabrics. In addition, the bill has been adjusted to reflect minor technical corrections suggested by the ITC.

I am proud to say that this newly revised bill has gained the approval of NCTO. Therefore, it is my hope that this legislation will serve as a strong demonstration of continuing House support for these duty suspensions, which are also included in companion legislation that has been introduced in the Senate by Sen. ARLEN SPECTER of Pennsylvania.

I urge my colleagues to support this common-sense tariff relief measure that will yield positive benefits for American companies, workers and consumers.

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOLY SAVIOUR CLUB OF NORRISTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2006*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Holy Saviour Club of Norristown, Pennsylvania.

The Holy Saviour Club was founded by Italian-American immigrants from the town of Montella, Italy. It was the desire of the founding families to share their Italian heritage and culture with their fellow Montgomery County citizens.

The Holy Saviour Club will celebrate its 100th anniversary with a weekend celebration on August 4th–6th and the members and guests will participate in a celebratory procession, feast, and a solemn mass at Holy Saviour Church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the Holy Saviour Club of Norristown, Pennsylvania as it celebrates its 100th anniversary. It is my hope the Club continues to prosper and promote the Italian heritage and culture of its members for the benefit of the larger Montgomery County community.

#### IN TRIBUTE TO LEONARD H. ROBINSON, COMMITTEE ADVOCATE FOR AFRICA

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2006*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Leonard H. Robinson, a humble and committed public servant whose judgment and insight helped further USA policy initiatives in Africa and whose dedication and leadership helped change the lives on two different continents. Mr. Robinson who was a strong advocate for Africa, and for the rights of others, died unexpectedly at Washington Hospital